During the last two years, ONGC has incurred an expenditure of about Rs. 105.35 crores on hydrocarbon exploration in Andhra Pradesh.

ONGC have so far located oil and|or gas at the following prospects in Andhra Pradesh

— Razole
— Narsapur
— Kaza
— Bhimanpalji
— Tatipaka
— Kaikalur
— Pasarlapudi

Gas agencies allottedto war widdws and ex-servicemen

864. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA;

SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:

Will he Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases which have been recommended by the Defence Minis try for the allotment of LPG agencies to war widows and disabled ex-servicemen; and

(b) the number of cases in which the recommendations were accepted and LPG agencies allotted to such widows and dis abled ex-servicemen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT); (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

National Gas Transmission: Grid

865. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVAT-TOM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS' be pleased to state;

(a) whether the ONGC has submitted a proposal for a 7084 mile National Gas Transmission Grid from Trivandruam and Bangalore to Punjab;

(b) if so, what ate the details thereof and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT); (a) to (c) The proposal of ONGC for a national gas grid is a part of the long-term perspective plan for the development and utilisation of natural gas. Its implementation will depend on .the establishment of adequate reserves of gas and availability of financial resources for its production and utilisation. Exploration is underway for discovering oil and gas reserves.

Flaring of gas

. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) the quantity of gas flared during the last three years in the existing oil and gas fields of ONGC and OIL in Upper Assam Valley, Tripura, Bombay High and other oil and gas fields of the country: and

(b) the measures taken by Government so far to utilise this precious fuel commercially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT); (a) About 9000 MCM of gas was flared during he last three years.

(b) The following steps have been taken by Government for maximum utilisation and to minimise flaring:

(i) Installation of additional com-passion facilities.

(ii) Encouraging consumers to take gas-. *a* on a fall-back basis, when regular cus tomers fail to lift the committed quan- tities. Towards this end, a 15 pel

cent dli-count for fall bask users has been given in the pricing formula announced by Government.

(iii) Additional commitment of gas in the North-Eastern Region where the primary cause for flaring is low offtake by regular consumers.

Oil-shore exploratory drilling

867. SHRI NARAYAN KAR; Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) whether off-shore exploratory dril ling has been taken up in the North-Wes tern part of the Bay of Bengal and

(b) if so, what are the details of the locations; and if not, by when it is likely to be taken up

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL, GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ONGC have recently drilled one well at SME-1 location in Bengal offshore basin and a second well M SMM-1 location is under drilliqg. Oil India Ltd. had also drilled seven wills in Mahanadi Offshore and three wells in the North East Coast of Orissa in Bay of Bengal. A fourth well in the Offshore North East Coast of Orissa is under drilling.

Transportation of surplus gas

868 SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY; Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal un der Government's consideration to trans port-surplus gas from the Assam oil and gas fields of ONGC and OIL to North Bengal via Jorhat and Guwahati; through trunk pipeline; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Denial of promotion of Assamese Officers of Indian Oil Corporation at Digboi

869. SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Assamese Ofiicers working in IOC at Digboi have been deprived of promotion and also of opportunity of getting training abroad; and

(b) if not, what is the number of (i) Assamese and (ii) other officers who have been promoted and how many of them were sent for training abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PE1ROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): .(a) No, Sir.

(b) In the current year, 49 Assamese Officers have been promoted as against 26 other officers. While one Assamese Officers has recently attended training abroad, none of the other 26 officers have been sent for training abroad.

Family Courts

870. SHRIMATI BIJOY CHAKRA-VARTY; Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the concept of Family Courts under the Family Courts. Act, 1984, did not find favour with the majority of the State in the country; and

(b.) what is the number of States which are responding favourably to the setting up of Family Courts?

THE MINISTTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Family Courts have already been set up in the States of Rajasthan, U.P.